



ARTISTS USING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

"Nem" is the primordial Stuff out of which  
the universe emerged

JULY 1983

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2

# "the extraordinary in the ordinary"

at Tresidder Union,  
Stanford

August 6, 2-5:30 PM

FREE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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● PROGRAM DETAILS INSIDE

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## CALENDAR

- Now until July 31** **Theatre of Sound Sculptured Space** is an exploration of spatial dimensions of music in an acoustically designed environment of 126 speakers. Friday and Saturday at 8:30 pm. Auditions, 1616 Bush, San Francisco. 771-1616. \$5.
- July 22** **Light Currents**, a show of works by contemporary artists who use projected light in films, video tapes, slides and other experimental forms, is at the Exploratorium's McBean Theatre, 360 Lyon St., San Francisco. 363 7377. \$3.50.
- July 31** **Tunnel Hum USA** is a participatory vocal event where people will gather to sing a common key while visualizing positive change. Hum from San Francisco and New York event will be wired and fed satellite to stations nationwide. Fort Mason Center, Pier 2, San Francisco. 922-0763. Free. Hum starts at noon.
- July 31 - August 9** **1983 Harvard Computer Graphics Conference** held in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For information write Ann S. Quinn, Harvard Special Programs, Graduate School of Design, 68 Quincy, Cambridge, MA 02138 or call (617) 495-9343.
- Aug. 6 2-5:30** "The Extraordinary in the Ordinary", Ylem meeting at Treasider Union, Stanford. From incoming road take "Carpus Drive East" and follow signs. Free, open to the public. Program details on inside back page. Info, call (415) 856-9993.
- August 6 & 7** **Glimmering techniques workshop** by Bill Brunner features lecture/demonstration format. At Palo Alto Cultural Center. 10 am - 5 pm. Registration \$30. For more information call 325-2364.
- August 16 - 17** **Digicon '83**, an international conference on digital arts including music, sculpture, graphics, animation, fabric art, etc. will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information Digicon Computer Science Programs, 138C Centre for Continuing Education, 9997 Jone Drive, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 2A9.
- Until September** **Laser Light Show** features a new group of holograms at Helos Gallery, 1792 Halght St., San Francisco. 483-4634. Open Tuesday through Sunday, noon until 5 pm.
- September 10** Ylem field trip to the Lawrence Hall of Science Computer Graphics Center and Gravitrunka or Aurora will be an all day adventure for anyone who wants a new computer art experience. At both locations we will be given demonstrations and time on the computers. We will meet at the north Berkeley BART station at 9:30 am. Cost is \$13 per person. To register send a check made payable to Deborah Dablow to her at 1447 Caliente St., San Francisco, CA 94118. For more information call Deborah at 721-3953.

## Members in the News

The following Ylem members' work was in the Artch show at Eastport Gallery in Capertine during May: Scott Kim, Glenn Esch and Carl Rowndahl, and Truly Myrrh Reagan.

Ylem member Joan Michaels-Pogue had a show at The Farm Cerver Gallery in Madison, Wisconsin from June 9 until July 10. The show, which featured her flexible sculptures, was called "Systems/Suspensions".

The Writer, a national magazine, featured the poems of member Meredith Angwin in the March and July issues. All of the published poems were on the science/art theme. Meredith will also have a story printed in the August issue of Frequent Flyer magazine. This story is about optical effects that are visible from an airplane.



## Opportunities

- Deadline August 1** **1983 computer graphics wall calendar** - submit 20 slides in plastic slide page, horizontal designs only, labeled with name and brief description. Include SASZ. Pays \$300 per selection. For more information and to submit entries write: Photo Editor, Computer Graphics Project, Golden Turtle Press, 1619 Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94709.
- Deadline August 1** **Light Currents show** needs film, tapes, and mixed media made from visual scores or drawn plans. For more information write Light Current Eye Music, 425 San Bruno Ave., San Francisco, CA 94107.
- Deadlines August 15, September 3** **Art in The Park** requests proposals for the show to be held October 1 - 7 in the music concourse at Golden Gate Park. Deadline for performance proposals is August 15 and deadline for all other proposals is September 3. For more information contact Frish Pietronigro, P.O. Box 11405, San Francisco, CA 94111 or phone at 332-3191.
- Deadline August 23** **CADRE - Computers in Art And Design, Research & Education** - needs papers. Selected authors paid \$300 and will share in any publication profits. Suggested topics that can be addressed through theory, demos or workshops includes computers as a medium, artificial intelligence and art; investigative solutions via computers; the new aesthetics; and effects of computers on change. Send papers to CADRE Conference, Marsha Chamberlain, Art Department, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192.
- Deadline August 31** **1983 James O. Phelan Art Award in Video** - Two to four awards totaling \$10,000 will be given to recognize individual promise of California born video artists between 20 and 40 years old. For more information BAYC/Phelan Art Award in Video, 1111 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94107. 341-3282.
- Now** Ylem members interested in putting together a show with the theme **The Extraordinary in the Ordinary** should contact Deanne Dellbridge. Persons with work to show or with ideas on a site can contact Deanne at 2990 Jackson St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or 921-8870.
- Soon** **Computer Graphics for Artists and Designers course** will be taught at West Coast University in Los Angeles. For more information call Dr. Lee Ross at (213) 827-4433, ext. 399.

## COMPUTER ART SHOW A SUCCESS

On the weekend of July 4th, 13 Ylem computer artists staged an exhibit at CreaTECH. This year CreaTECH was the centerpiece of the Great American Arts Festival that draws over a half million people to San Jose each year.

Computer music and art was the theme of the CreaTECH event in the Convention Center Exhibit Hall. The show consisted of 18 computerware vendors and, at the exhibition's center, was Ylem's 40' x 40' gallery.

Ylem was invited to curate the show and set up the display. This was no small task considering the six weeks allotted us. In accomplishing all of this we were the "centerpiece of the centerpiece" and were afforded extensive media coverage as a result. Thousands of people saw the show.

An example of the Extraordinary in the Ordinary was the 4' x 34" piece by Ken Knowlton—a picture of a domino player made out of 74 sets of dominoes. A computer was used to assign the position of each domino.

Also shown were works by Aaron Marcus, Dave Dameron, David Thornburg, Pacific Data Image, Daniel Cooper, Martin Kahn, Edward Sellers, Edith Smith, Jaron Lanier, Bob Juhl, Ken Sakstani, Cynthia Fournier, Eleanor Kent, Lucia Grossberger, Scott Kim, and Mike Marshall on video tape. Video tapes were shown continuously and the following demonstrated art on equipment: Selectic Electrics, David Thornburg, Marty Kahn, and Trudy Wyrch Reagan with her amazing device. Robert Barker did computer assisted needlework.

Carrying the pixel theme to the beams overhead were the Quiltmakers of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, whose bright geometric quilts helped make the gallery the focal point of the huge room.

The show was coordinated by Trudy Wyrch Reagan and Lillian Clarke with the help of committee members Mary Yarnalov, Lucia Grossberger, Mike Marshall, Marty Kahn, and Scott Kim. Our thanks also goes to the more than 10 helpers, some of whom had never heard of Ylem before.

## HELP WANTED

Louis Brill and Bob Juhl have received materials from Munich Germany about computer art in Europe. Anyone can translate German and would be willing to help should contact Bob at 444-1761.

People who took pictures at of the Ylem exhibit at CreaTECH that would be interested in contributing the photos to the Ylem archives should contact Trudy Reagan. Her number is 854-9391.

## Ylem Notes

The fall meeting of Ylem on October 1 will be at the California College of Arts and Crafts. Together Ylem and L.A.S.E.R. will sponsor a seminar that will deal exclusively with lasers and holography.

The presentation titled "Lasers - An Artistic Approach To The Light Fantastic" will introduce the L.A.S.E.R. organization to Ylem members as well as provide a detailed explanation with slides and demonstrations on how lasers work, what holograms are, and how holograms work. Meeting coordinator is Louis Brill. If you have questions, contributions, or speaker information contact Louis at 844-0694.

The Ylem Yellow Pages is making slow but steady progress. Sixteen people out of a membership of over a hundred have returned the resource questionnaire. So if you are reading this note and have not yet filled out an Ylem Yellow Pages questionnaire, please contact Trudy Reagan for a form and send it back ASAP.

We are extending the Yellow Pages deadline until September 1 and are still requesting black and white 5X10 art contributions of line drawings, computer graphics, or any representation of your art that you might like to see reproduced in the Ylem Yellow Pages.

Any members interested in the Ylem geology field trip on June 4-7 can receive illustrated notes by mailing a self addressed stamped envelope to Trudy Reagan. Trudy's address is 947 Moreno, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

## ● August 6 Meetings:

Dale Seymour - Transforming simple geometry, Meredith Angwin - Optical effects you can see from airplanes, poetry, Bob McKim - The art of creating problems, Julianne Frixzall - about her on-site sculpture, Bruce Sherman - about glass contraptions, Kara, Film - Hardware Wars.

## A Change Purse by Stan Isaacs:

The idea for this zipper purse came from a magician, according to its creator Stan Isaacs. "I saw this magician with one at a magic party and it looked easy to make. So, I went home and made one," he said.

Isaacs' primary interests are puzzles and computer programming. The purse is interesting to him in much the same way his puzzles are. "Most puzzles involve finding some peculiarity in how things fit together," Isaacs said. "The purse is not really a puzzle, but it was an interesting way to use a found object."

## About our Cover Art:

Cover artist Eleanor Kent specializes in Color Xerox, computer art, and mail art.

She became involved in Color Xerox and mail art because she was looking for new ways to distribute art. "I wanted to meet people directly without having to go through the gallery thing. My main purpose was to exchange ideas," she said.

After she started showing her Color Xerox art, Eleanor began exploring paint systems with computers. She says that she enjoys combining art and science because she enjoys taking risks and exploring.

The Helixnet series from which our cover art is extracted was produced on rag paper with a Color Xerox. Eleanor created the series of 37 pictures by placing eggs in a dish and moving them around.

About this process Eleanor said, "I like working with a Color Xerox art series because it is faster than a series of photographs and slower than a movie. It is a process that is recorded. It is process art."

Lettering for cover - Marilyn Krieger.

Please note: The newsletter is short this month because we have enclosed the members' 1981-82 mailing list.

## Letter to Ylem

Thanks for a brief insight into the birth of Ylem, your personal "art history," including your awakening to Kepes' "New Landscape" and the subsequent fan-letter episode. Kepes was an inspiration to several of us here in Toronto in the mid '70s. In time, through intermittent correspondence and occasional meetings, Kepes became something of a mentor to me. As you may have noted from my last enclosure, when I broke away from I.D., I took a couple of years "off" and for half a year Kepes kindly accepted me as a "special M.L.T. graduate student" to study and research at his Center for advanced Visual Studies - CAYS. I spent hours and days in many MIT engineering and science departments, saw film after film for teaching engineering students hydrodynamics, cellular processes, which blew me away. Met all kinds of stimulating mathematicians and scientists some quite interested in the art/science interaction, all extremely cordial and helpful. It was an exciting time.

You expressed interest in these various defunct art/science groups. I believe most of them are dead, but CAYS is still alive, altho much changed under the auspices of Otto Piene. I can't recall all the European groups - some of the most prominent and influential were Group Zero (which Otto Piene helped to found); the Group De Recherche D'art Visuel, or GRAV, whose art and works I found personally intensely stimulating; great manifestos with such deeply aesthetic and poetic pioneers in light movement, sound and optical/color magic - as Julio Le Parc, Pol Bury, Jesus Soto etc.; the

Nouvelle Tendance groups in Europe, Spain, and Yugoslavia; and the British groups associated with ICA (Institute of Contemporary Art - and at that time, incredibly alive) - and the Signal artist. Group Zero, it seems to me, arrived first, in the late 50s; GRAV soon after, and the others in the mid 60s. My god it was an extraordinarily affirmative and productive time, right into the early 70s.

In the USA there was USCO, CAYS, and PULSA, each quite special and spirited art/science/technology groups - along with E.A.T. ... all these spread through the mid and late 60s. If you want to look into all of these European and American groups more closely it would be an interesting exercise since it was it seems, "just yesterday" and yet so much is water under the bridge already). I recommend Douglas Davis' book Art and the Future. George Rickey's Constructivism deals more with the individual artist, but touches most of these groups I think. He has an interesting chronology at the front. Stewart Krag - the govt of these - Science and Technology in the Arts has some good bits I think on U.S. groups like PULSA and Kepes. You mentioned seeing PAGE. Do you know if it is still emerging under Lauchner at Michigan University? I'd like to see a recent copy.

Julian Rowan  
R.R. 1  
Newtonville, Ontario L0A 1Z0  
CANADA

Ylem Board of Directors: President - Trudy Murrh Beagary Corresponding Secretaries - Robin Samelson, Lois Johnson, Francine Pfeiffer; Membership - Dolores Higgins; Meeting Programs - Dianne DeBridges; Newsletter Editor - Luanne Hicks; Treasurer - Tom Pressburger; Telephone Tree - Bob Hill, Louis Brill, Judy Spencer, Carrie Adell; MailBox List - David Thornburg; Field Trips - Shoshannah Dubiner; "Yellow Pages" - Louis Brill.

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I would like:

- ☐ to receive a sample issue.
- ☐ a year's membership. \$10 is enclosed.
- ☐ newsletter only, since I live more than 100 miles from both San Francisco and Palo Alto. \$5 enclosed.

Send to Ylem, 987 Moreno, Palo Alto, CA 94303



ARTIST WORK, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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